

Applicant attaches hereto a listing of the claims, which includes the status of all claims, including claim 23. Applicant respectfully notes that this claim was included in the previous listing of claims, but the Examiner apparently overlooked the same because there was no double spacing between claims 22 and 23. The attached listing of claims corrects this.

The claims remain rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yui et al in view of WO 00/22056 (Official Action at paragraph 3) or over this combination of references further in view of *Introduction to Physical Polymer Science* (Official Action at paragraph 4) or EP 978547 (Official Action at paragraph 5). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant has conducted comparative experimentation to show the advantageous properties of the claimed ink as compared with the closest prior art ink and submits herewith a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 with the results of that experimentation. (Applicant notes that the attached Declaration is unsigned, but the signed Declaration should follow shortly.) Applicant respectfully submits that the results in the Declaration are sufficient to rebut the alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness set forth by the cited references, as next discussed.

Claimed Invention:

The claimed invention is directed to an ink containing at least:

- (a) a coloring material;
- (b) water;

(c) 4-10% by weight of a saccharide-alkyleneoxy derivative comprising a compound of formula (1) having a skeleton of a saccharide selected from the group consisting of C3 to C12 aldoses, ketoses and sugar alcohols;

(d) one or more specific C3-C12 saccharide;

(e) at least one glycol ether selected from 5-20% by weight DEGmBE, 5-20% by weight TEGmBE, 3-10% by weight DPGmBE, 3.5-10% by weight PgmBE; and

(f) 3-10% by weight of 1,2-PD or 0.5-5% by weight of 1,2-HD.

Comparative Experimentation:

Inks as shown in the Declaration were prepared taking into account the requirements of the claimed invention as defined in claim 4 and Example 2 of Yui et al, which is the closest prior art.

In the Invention Example, the following compounds were used as components (c) to (f).

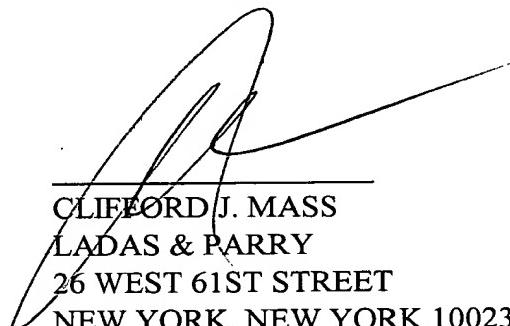
- (c): Sorbitol-Ethyleneoxy Derivative
- (d): Glycerol
- (e): TEGmBE
- (f): 1,2-HD

The results of the experimentation show that the printed sheets obtained with the claimed ink were unexpectedly superior to the printed sheets obtained with the closest ink of the cited prior art reference in that the claimed inks showed better color development, less streaking and provided a more distinct image. These advantages of the claimed ink could not

have been expected from the cited references and the experimentation thus provides evidence of unexpected results that is sufficient to rebut the alleged *prima facie* case of obviousness set forth by the cited art.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art rejection has been successfully traversed and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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